



# CASE STUDY

## TERRITORIAL DISPUTE

How can India and Pakistan resolve their dispute over Kashmir?



Snowcapped mountains tower over a village in the valley of the Suru River in the disputed territory of Kashmir.

**K**ashmir is a territory of towering mountains, dense forests, and fertile river valleys. It is strategically located at the foot of the Himalayas and is surrounded by India, Pakistan, and China. Since 1947, India and Pakistan have fought to control this territory of 12 million people. The territorial dispute has caused three Indo-Pakistani wars and, in just the last decade alone, cost up to 75,000 lives. It poses a threat to the political stability of South Asia and the economic well-being of the countries involved. And, because both India and Pakistan have nuclear weapons, the Kashmir conflict has the potential to lead to nuclear war.

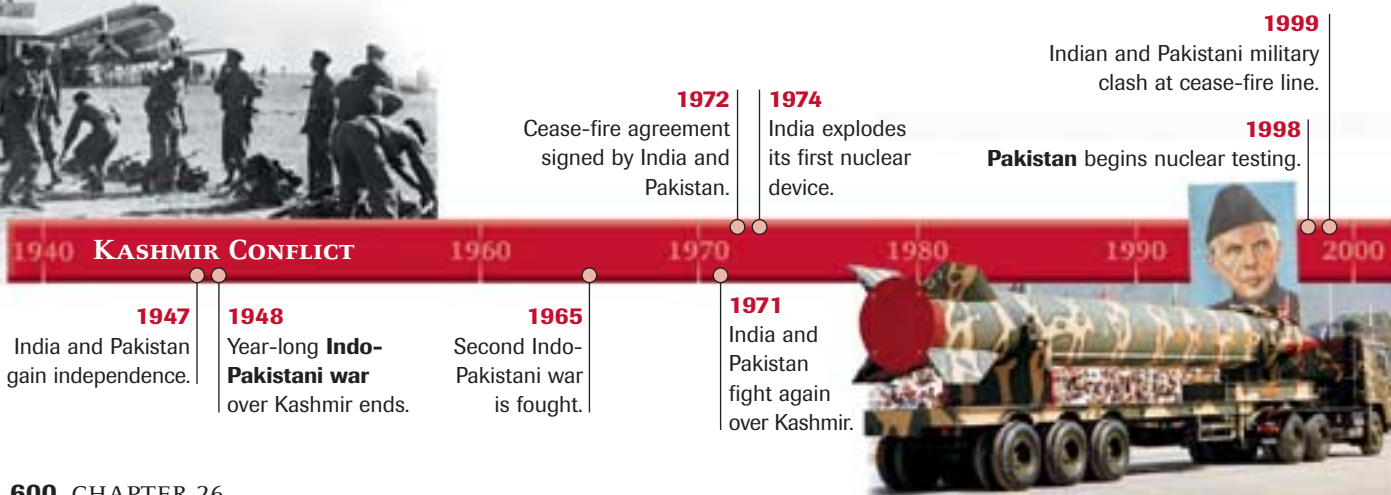
## A Controversy Over Territory

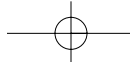
In 1947, the British government formally ended its colonial rule over the Indian subcontinent after 90 years. It partitioned, or divided, the subcontinent into two independent countries. India had a predominantly Hindu population.

Pakistan was mostly Muslim. Britain gave each

Indian state the choice of joining either country or remaining independent. Muslim states joined with Pakistan, while Hindu states remained part of India. Kashmir, however, had a unique problem.

**POLITICS AND RELIGION** Kashmir was mainly Muslim, but its leader, the Maharajah of Kashmir, was a Hindu. Faced with a difficult decision, the maharajah tried to keep Kashmir independent. But the plan failed. The maharajah then ceded Kashmir to India in 1947, but Pakistani soldiers invaded Kashmir. After a year's fighting, India still controlled much of the territory. Since then, India and Pakistan have fought two





more wars, in 1965 and in 1971. Although a cease-fire was signed in 1972, the situation remains unresolved. As you can see on the map below, India and Pakistan each control part of the disputed territory. Even China controls a portion, having seized a remote northern mountain area in 1962.

**A QUESTION OF ECONOMICS** There's more to this conflict than just politics and religion. The Indus River flows through Kashmir, and many of its tributaries originate in the territory. The Indus is a critical source of drinking and irrigation water for all of Pakistan. As a result, the Pakistanis are unwilling to let India control such a vital resource. Kashmir has become a strategic prize that neither country is willing to give up.

## A Nuclear Nightmare

SEE

PRIMARY SOURCE B

In 1998, India and Pakistan each tested nuclear weapons. The rest of the world was horrified by the thought that the 50-year-old dispute over Kashmir might finally end with vast areas of South Asia destroyed by nuclear bombs. After the tests, both nations vowed to seek a political solution to the conflict. But the possibility of a nuclear war has made the dispute even more dangerous. Despite frequent cease-fires, the border clashes have continued. Also, Pakistan is supporting Muslims in Kashmir who have been fighting Indian rule since the late 1980s.

SEE

PRIMARY SOURCE A

## A QUESTION OF PRIORITIES

Both India and Pakistan have large populations and widespread poverty. The money that they have spent on troops, arms, and nuclear programs might have been used to educate millions of children and to address many social problems.

SEE

PRIMARY SOURCE E

Resolving the status of Kashmir would offer the people of India, Pakistan, and Kashmir the peace they need to begin improving the quality of their lives. It would also reduce political tensions in the region. The Case Study Project and primary sources that follow will help you to explore the Kashmir question.







# CASE STUDY

## PROJECT

*Primary sources A, B, C, D, and E offer different views of the dispute over Kashmir. Use these resources along with your own research to write a newspaper feature on how the people of Kashmir, India, and Pakistan have suffered in this conflict. Include their own words.*



**RESEARCH LINKS**  
CLASSZONE.COM

## A Newspaper Feature

### Suggested Steps

1. Divide into small groups representing ordinary Kashmiris (such as women, farmers, and rebel soldiers), as well as Indian and Pakistani officials or soldiers. Then begin gathering personal accounts about the conflict from newspapers, magazines, and Internet sites.
2. Search for visuals—illustrations, maps, photographs, political cartoons, charts, and graphs—that help illustrate the points you are making.
3. When everyone in the class has collected enough material, work together to plan the feature story.

4. When you have finished planning, prepare the feature.

5. Share your project with other groups at your school or in your community.

### Materials and Supplies

- Reference books, newspapers, and magazines
- Computer with Internet access and printer

### PRIMARY SOURCE A

**Government Document** *The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan published this policy statement on Kashmir in 1999, after a visit to the United States by the Pakistani prime minister, Nawaz Sharif.*

In order to find an early and just solution to the 50-year old . . . Kashmir dispute, Pakistan has welcomed offers of good offices and third-party mediation. It has encouraged the international community to play an active role and facilitate the peaceful settlement of disputes between Pakistan and India.

While Pakistan is committed to a peaceful settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, adequate measures have been taken to safeguard the country's territorial integrity and national sovereignty. Pakistan will continue to extend full political, diplomatic and moral support to the legitimate Kashmiri struggle for their right to self-determination as enshrined in the relevant United Nations resolutions. In the context of the bilateral dialogue, it calls on India to translate its commitments into reality.

### PRIMARY SOURCE B

**Government Policy Declaration** *At a state dinner in India for President Bill Clinton in March 2000, Indian President Kocharil Raman Narayanan warned that India would fight to protect its interests in Kashmir.*

It has been suggested that the Indian subcontinent is the most dangerous place in the world today, and Kashmir is a nuclear flashpoint. These alarmist descriptions will only encourage those who want to break the peace and indulge in terrorism and violence. The danger is not from us who have declared solemnly that we will not be the first to use nuclear weapons, but rather it is from those who refuse to make any such commitment.

We are publicly committed to the abolition of nuclear weapons together with other nuclear powers who possess them in awesome stockpiles capable of destroying the world many times over. India does not threaten any other country and will not engage in an arms race, but India will maintain a minimum credible nuclear deterrent—no more, no less—for her own security.

# PRIMARY SOURCE C

**Political Speech** Mehbooba Mufti is a leader of the Jammu and Kashmir People's Democratic Party, a political party in Kashmir. In 1999, she spoke about the conflict and her hope that the dispute will be peacefully resolved.

Everything has changed, mostly for the worse. Take just the physical destruction of whatever we had, the schools, the colleges, the roads, the bridges, the buildings, everything we had for the last 50 years, that has been more or less destroyed. We used to have a very good education system, with very good teachers, but now that has gone. . . .

I think Kashmir finally has to become a bridge between India and Pakistan. Finally. Maybe not today, maybe not tomorrow, but after some years, it is finally going to become a bridge. Have an open relationship. It's a dream!

# PRIMARY SOURCE D

**Personal Story** Kashmiri native Mohammed Aziz lives in Kargil, a city on the border between the Pakistani- and Indian-controlled regions of Kashmir. In 1999, he described how the conflict had affected his hometown.

We never know when the shell will come. . . . For the last three years, no one sleeps well there. Whoever flees leaves everything there. He takes nothing with him. The cattle are left on their own. Nobody cares for them, so we don't know what happens to them. . . .

Before, tourism was OK. Before the shelling there used to be 25 hotels, but now I don't think any hotel is open. We can't calculate the damage. . . .

The children's education is stopped, and whoever is ill dies because there is no medication nor anyone to care for them. Whoever resides in Kargil, does so at his own risk.

# PRIMARY SOURCE E

**Political Cartoon** This 1998 political cartoon shows how the development of nuclear weapons by India and Pakistan has caused economic suffering among the people of both countries.



# PROJECT Checklist

## Have I . . .

- ✓ fully researched my topic?
- ✓ located primary source quotations to tell my story?
- ✓ taken into account both sides of the issue?
- ✓ arranged the quotations so that they tell a coherent, interesting story?
- ✓ created informative visuals that make my story clear and interesting?